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C.A.I.T. TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO BOYCOTT CHINESE GOODS

The Confederation of All India Traders said it would launch a nationwide campaign to boycott Chinese goods from June 10

TRADERS WON'T SELL CHINESE PRODUCTS

The traders body's move comes amid border tensions between India and China. CAIT will not only motivate traders to not sell Chinese goods but also urge Indian consumers to buy indigenous products in place of Chinese goods. This way, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call 'Vocal for Local' will also be fructified, the traders' body said in a statement on Sunday

3,000 PRODUCTS ON CHOPPING BLOCK

- CAIT's aim is to bring down import of Chinese goods by $13 billion by December 2021. It has prepared a list of 3,000 products imported from China for which Indian substitutes are available
- Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Sunday that talks with China will continue to resolve the Ladakh stand-off

CAIT

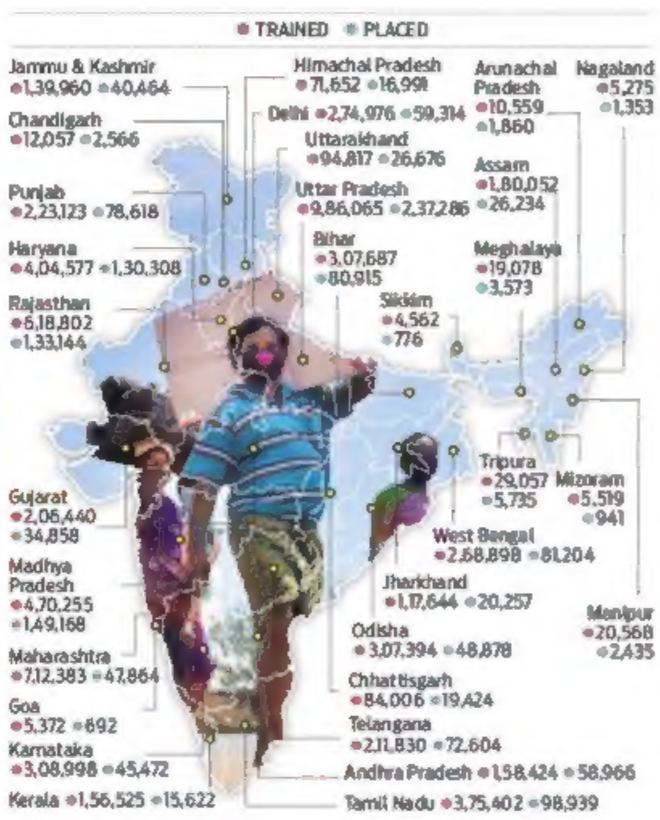
CLAIMS TO REPRESENT 7 CR TRADERS AND 40,000 TRADER ASSOCIATIONS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KARIMUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EXPRESS MAPS

Lakhs of youth aren't job-ready

Out of over 68 lakh youths trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, only 28 lakh got placement. A look at state-wise figures



JUST 23% OF SKILLING TRAINEES UNDER GOVT SCHEME GOT JOBS

68 lakh people have been given training so far, but only 15.5 lakh have got placement

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

THE Skill India Mission, launched with much fanfare during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first term in 2015 to scale up skill development efforts across the country, could provide employment to only 23% of those who got training under its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Since the scheme's inception, 68 lakh people have undertaken training but only 15.5 lakh managed to get placement, data show. During the period, ₹5,903.4 crore has been released to various agencies to implement the scheme.

This is significant given the fact that many States have started skill mapping to provide employment to migrant workers who have returned to their native places. Over 60 lakh migrant workers have returned to States including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand during the lockdown period and the respective state governments have initiated skill mapping exercise to provide them with job opportunities.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been implementing the PMKVY for short-duration skill development training through its empanelled training centres across the country.

According to data from the ministry, 2,23,885 people were trained under PMKVY in 2016-17 but only 280 people could get placement.

Similarly, during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, 21.54 lakh, 18.94 lakh and 25.38 lakh youth were trained out of which only 4.53 lakh, 6.71 lakh and 4.23 lakh, respectively, could get placement. PMKVY offers training across 37 sectors encompassing over 1,800 job roles.

There are over 13,200 training centres across the country to implement PMKVY.

So far, as many as 304 training centres have been suspended for not complying with guidelines.

Nitish to lead NDA charge in Bihar polls: Amit Shah

Addresses virtual rally beamed across all 242 Assembly segments; says will get big majority

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

WITH the term of the Bihar government ending in November, BJP powerhouse Amit Shah on Sunday set the tone for the Assembly elections by putting all speculation to rest on the NDA leadership question, saying he was confident Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would get a fresh mandate to rule the state with two-thirds majority.

Addressing party workers and people of Bihar in his first virtual rally — spun as a non-political one but ticking all the political check boxes — Shah lauded the performances of Nitish and his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi in their battle against Covid-19. "This is not election talk, as some in the Opposition have sought to label it, but I am confident that the NDA, under Nitish Kumar ji, will form the government with two-thirds majority," he claimed.

The leadership question had recently popped up as the LJP, an NDA ally, had said it will go with the BJP's decision, while faulting Nitish's handling of the pandemic.

At the virtual rally — beamed in all 242 Assembly segments of Bihar through 200 LCD screens and other modes — Shah saluted the corona warriors fighting the pandemic and acknowledged the contribution of others, including the police force.

Listing the steps taken by Prime Mminister Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar to contain the infection rate, Shah hurled barbs at the Opposition. "Some social organisations have advised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to speak loudly to draw votes. But here, the performance of the PM speaks louder than Rahul," he sarcastically said.

Ahead of the rally, the RJD has protested against it by clanging utensils to observe what it called the Garib Adhikar Diwas. Recalling that clanging was Modi's idea to thank frontline workers, Shah gave the RJD a left-handed compliment for "finally understanding and following the PM's earlier appeal".

Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays a tribute to corona warriors while addressing the Bihar Jan Samwad rally via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

TAKING THE ROAD HOME

A migrant family heads to board a bus at the Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHARAN M

INDIA AHEAD OF SPAIN OR BEHIND IT?

FIFTH OR SIXTH?

While the Johns Hopkins tracker on Sunday showed India (2,56,242) in the fifth position on total case count worldwide, ahead of Spain (2,41,550), Worldometers appeared to have updated its table and placed the country at the sixth slot, with Spain (2,88,390) and Britain (2,86,194) taking the fourth and fifth spots, respectively

2,46,628 Total cases in India as on Sunday morning, according to Union Health Ministry data

1,20,406 Active cases of coronavirus so far, 9,971 of them testing positive in the last 24 hours

1,19,293 Total recovered patients, 5,220 of them declared cured in a day

48.37% CURRENT RECOVERY RATE

6,929 Fatality count, up by 287 within 24 hours

YOUNGEST PATIENT RECOVERS

A five-day old, who was confirmed with Covid-19 in Kerala, has recovered at Parippally Medical College in Kollam and returned home but the mother is still under treatment

Malls ready to re-open

Malls, shopping centres and religious places will re-open on Monday after more than two months of shutdown

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

239 TEST +VE ON SUNDAY

5,452 Total cases as on Sunday

61 Deaths

2,132 Total Recoveries

FROM THE DISTRICTS

1. Death toll steadily on the rise, as 2 succumb to disease in Bengaluru Urban
2. Kalyana Karnataka region reports 92 positive cases in the last 24 hours
3. Over 10,000 samples tested in Shivamogga district so far, with 53 coming positive
4. Police team formed in Kolar district to nab missing Covid patient
5. New Covid-19 testing laboratory inaugurated at Koppal Institute of Medical Sciences

80-yr-old man tied to hospital bed in MP over alleged dues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhopal

PICTURES of an elderly man's feet tied to a private hospital's bed for allegedly failing to settle his dues in Shajapur district, 160 km from Bhopal, created shockwaves in Madhya Pradesh. While patient Laxminarayan Dangi's daughter Sheela alleged on Friday that her dad was tied to the bed over non-payment of ₹11,270, the hospital management claimed the rope was meant to stop the old man from hurting himself as he was having convulsions. He was laso being treated for electrolyte imbalance and intestinal blockage, the hospital claimed.

With the viral images indicating cruelty to the elderly, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted, "The culprits won't be spared. Strict action will be taken against them."

Corporator now flouts lockdown norms, arrested

ENS @Bengaluru

PADARAYANAPURA ward corporator Imran Pasha was arrested by the police on Sunday for violating lockdown norms. He was returning home in a procession soon after he was discharged from Victoria Hospital.

Pasha (40), who had tested positive for Covid-19 on May 29, was under treatment at the hospital. P3

No grains in the pot, no money in the pocket, farmers face uncertain times

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

SMALL farmer Nagaraju from Raichur, who cultivates paddy, is waiting for the economy to pick up before purchasing seeds for his next crop. While the price of a 75-kg sack of rice fell from Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,040 at the beginning of the lockdown, he told *The New Indian Express* that he is still looking for markets to sell his produce. He has not applied for the government aid scheme yet, but is hoping to work on neighbouring farms for wages again to sustain his family.

Like Nagaraju, lakhs of farmers in Karnataka do not have money to cultivate the Kharif crop and are staring at a bleak future.

The Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University, in its recent Livelihoods Survey, has recorded that 85 per cent of rural farmers and 95 per cent of urban farmers across 12 states were unable to sell their produce at full prices during the lockdown. Several sold their produce at less than half the price, while many were forced to let their crops rot. About 60 per cent of agricultural casual wage workers in Karnataka alone have lost employment.

Researchers have found that government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana or the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which would have alleviated the farmers from the crisis, did not reach a majority of them.

Apart from the reach of the schemes being poor, the researchers observed that there were insufficient jobs, many did not possess job cards and several did not even have bank accounts, nor did they apply for direct benefit transfer from the government.

Women farmers, cultivators in Hyderabad-Karnataka and Mumbai-Karnataka regions, have faced the worst situation this year due to the two-month lockdown, including no access to markets for the crops they grew, said Muthuraju, one of the administrators of Jan Shakti Andolan. Farmers depended on rations from the government, apart from their own produce to stave off starvation, he pointed out.

Due to a fall in prices, where silk farmers got only between Rs 150 and Rs 350 for a kg of cocoons around Mandya and Bengaluru, several selling the worms to cultivators were out of jobs as the latter were hesitant to buy, said a sericulture expert.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Kannada actor Chiranjeevi Sarja suffers cardiac arrest, dies at 39

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

KANNADA action star Chiranjeevi Sarja died after a massive cardiac arrest in the city on Sunday. He was 39. The last rites will be held at 11 am on Monday at the farmhouse of his brother and actor Dhruva Sarja near Kanakapura. The untimely death of the actor has shocked his fans and the entire film industry.

Chiranjeevi Sarja, son of Vijay Kumar and Ammanni, was born into a family of popular film personalities. P5

EXPRESS READ

Petrol, diesel prices up by 60 paisa per litre

New Delhi: Prices of petrol and diesel were increased by 60 paise per litre on Sunday. State-owned oil firms have restarted daily price revisions after an 82-day hiatus.

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